



GM Newsletter

April 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

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Message from the General Manager

Reliable water service doesn't happen by chance; it requires ongoing investment in the infrastructure that delivers it every day.

NID is proposing rate adjustments driven by three critical projects essential to maintaining safe and dependable service.

These include the required replacement of the Scotts Flat spillway, ongoing maintenance and risk reduction for the South Yuba Canal—an aging, single-source conveyance system—and major upgrades to the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant to ensure safe drinking water.

These are not optional projects; they are necessary to meet safety regulations, reduce risk, and maintain system reliability. Without adequate funding, critical improvements could be delayed, increasing the likelihood of system failures, emergency repairs, and service disruptions.

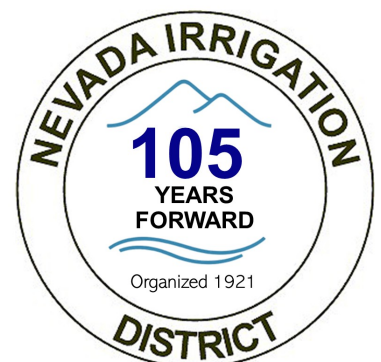
We understand that rate increases are difficult. However, they are essential to protecting the long-term reliability of your water—today and for the future. Learn more at the [water rate adjustment webpage](#) at [nidwater.com](#). More information is on [Page 2](#).



Water is once again flowing through NID's canals. While these flows are essential for delivering water across the District, they are cold and can be deceptively fast. Learn more about NID's "Stay Out & Stay Alive" safety message on [Page 4](#).

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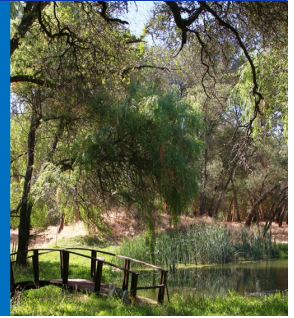
Understanding the water rate process

What it means for you



WATER RATES

[NID Rate Adjustment webpage](#) has details, updates and Prop. 218 information.



We have heard from many customers with questions and concerns about the proposed water rate adjustment, and we understand why. Any change to household or business costs matters, and we want to make sure you have clear, accurate information.

How are the rates implemented?

Proposition 218 requires the establishment of a maximum rate increase. Each year during annual budget development, the Board of Directors will set the actual rate increase for the following year. The Board of Directors recently discussed guidelines (or guardrails) for implementing a lower annual rate increase. For example, if extraordinary external funding is received for the Scotts Flat Spillway Reconstruction Project, the Board of Directors could lower rates in future years of the five-year rate term. The noticed rates are the allowable maximum, not the actual rate increase that will be implemented in any specific year.

When was the last time water rates were increased?

The NID Board last adopted a rate increase in April 2019; the last rate increase approved under the rate schedule was on January 1, 2021.

Why are water rates increasing now?

The proposed water rate increase is needed to fund critical projects that address aging and failing infrastructure and maintain compliance with state and federal regulations. Three critical capital improvement projects are at the center of the proposed rate structure. These are not optional; they are projects of necessity:

- The Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement project is estimated to cost the District \$55 million. This is not a discretionary project; it is required by the California Division of Safety of Dams and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The spillway, built in the early 1960's, no longer meets current safety standards and NID is required to replace it.
- NID's South Yuba Canal (SYC) is the backbone for water delivery to the Scotts Flat Reservoir, and to Nevada County. Built in the 1850's, it is made of elevated wooden flume, traverses rugged terrain prone to landslides and avalanches, and is in the middle of a forest that is highly susceptible to intense wildfire. NID recently acquired this critical asset from PG&E, and it costs more than \$3 million per year to maintain it.
- Upgrades to NID's aging treatment plants are necessary to process safe drinking water. The Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant is aging past its useful life and requires \$21 million in upgrades to continue safe operation.

Without investments, infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, increasing the risk of failures, emergency repairs, service disruptions, and regulatory non-compliance that, ultimately, will lead to higher costs and less reliable service for customers.

What happens if the infrastructure is not maintained?

The District requires ongoing funding to maintain and repair its aging infrastructure. Without it, critical projects such as the Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement and major canal repairs would likely be delayed or reduced in scope, increasing the risk of system failures.

This can lead to more frequent emergency repairs and costly breakdowns. It also increases the risk of non-compliance with state and federal regulations, which could result in fines and other legal consequences.

For customers, this means a higher likelihood of service disruptions and less reliable water delivery.

NID turns 105: a story still flowing

Built on History. Focused on the Future

The Nevada Irrigation District is celebrating its 105th year, but this isn't about being 105 years "old." It's about being 105 Years Forward.

To mark the occasion, we're launching a 16-week storytelling campaign that follows the journey of water, people, and progress across Nevada and Placer counties.

This isn't just a look back. It's an inside view of how water moves through the system every day: how canals, pipelines, reservoirs, and treatment facilities work together, and how NID continues preparing for the future.

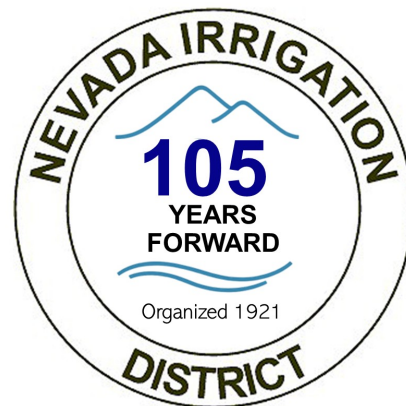
Each week, we'll share stories, photos, and videos that bring the system to life in ways most people don't get to see. All content will be featured on the 105 Years Forward campaign hub, with new updates added weekly.

You'll also see highlights on Facebook and Instagram, including:

- Historic milestones and rare photos from NID's 105-year history
- Myth vs. Fact features that clarify common water system questions
- Employee spotlights showcasing the people behind the work every day

At its core, 105 Years Forward is about connection—helping customers understand where their water comes from, how it's delivered, and the people who make it possible.

Because after 105 years, the story isn't finished; it's still flowing forward.



[See the Dressler Canal transform! Our 105 Years Forward hub is live now with the full timeline and historic photos](#)



Canal Safety: Stay Out & Stay Alive

As temperatures rise and spring settles in, water begins flowing once again through NID canals, marking the start of irrigation season across Nevada and Placer counties.

These canals play a vital role in delivering water to local farms, homes, and businesses. But what may look calm on the surface can be dangerously powerful.

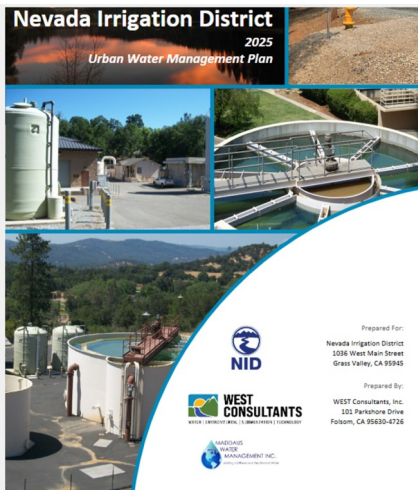
Fast-moving currents can knock a person off their feet in seconds, while steep, slippery sides make climbing out nearly impossible. Even more, the water is often extremely cold, which can quickly shock the body and make it difficult to move or breathe. Hidden hazards like culverts and grates can also pose serious risks. That's why each spring, NID encourages families to pause and talk about canal safety, especially with children.

NID's message is simple: Stay Out and Stay Alive.

- Never swim or wade in canals
- Keep a safe distance from canal edges
- Swimming, kayaking, and tubing are prohibited
- Keep pets leashed and away from the water
- Stay clear of gates and equipment
- Respect property rights. Don't litter or dump trash.
- Do not access canal banks with vehicles
- Never jump in to retrieve pets or objects



Public hearing set for NID's Urban Water Management Plan update



NID will hold a public hearing on May 13, 2026, to review and consider adoption of its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

The UWMP is an important planning document that explains how NID will provide reliable water service now and into the future. It looks at water supply reliability, future water availability, and how the District plans to meet customer needs.

The plan also covers water use trends, future supply sources, a five-year drought risk assessment, and NID's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and conservation efforts.

Customers and community members are encouraged to participate. You can attend the public hearing or submit comments in advance by emailing ops@nidwater.com.

Review the Draft Plan:
2025 Draft Urban Water Management Plan

Bowman Reservoir

NID has been keeping precipitation records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

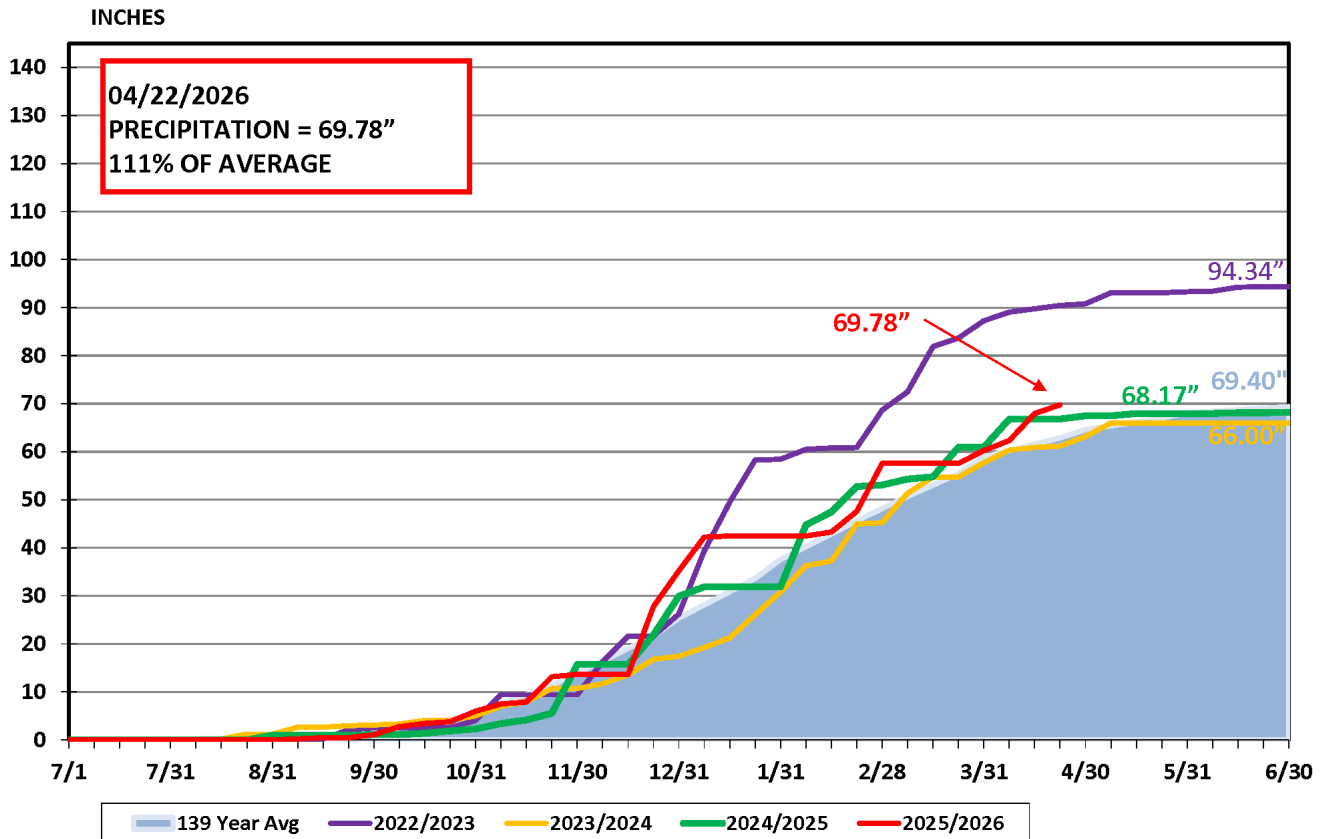
The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

As of April 22, the reservoir was at 111 percent of its average precipitation.



Bowman Reservoir

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 116% of average

Total NID reservoir storage is 267,528 acre-feet as of April 22, 2026. That is 99 percent of capacity and 114 percent of a 12-year average.

Reservoirs in this measurement include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.

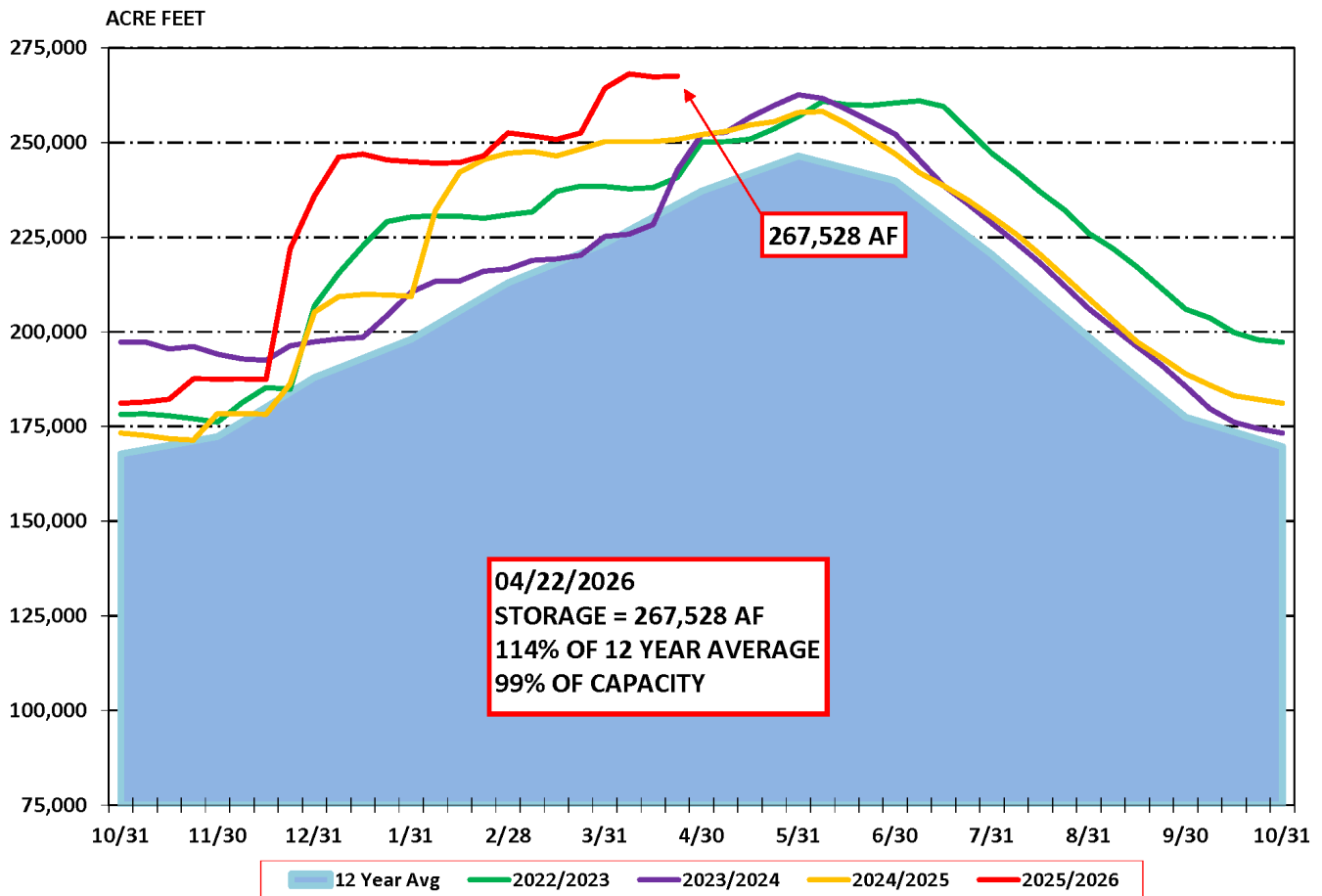


French Lake

NID's water managers regularly post updates of reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

It's all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

*** Dates and times subject
to change. Please check
nidwater.com for updates*

